of Control and in the Sir Creek Areas have been reported. Some Pakistani reserve formations have also been moved from their permanent locations but have not yet been deployed near the border.

Our troops are alert and vigilant to effectively meet any threat.

Air Crashes

613. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of MIG crashes during the last three years;

(b) what is the total cost of the MIGs crashed;

(c) how many pilots and others died or injured as a result thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government to prevent such crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The total number of MIG crashes and the number of pilots and others died or injured as a result of these crashes during the last three years are as under:—

		Injured		Died		
	No. of Crashes	Pilot	Civilians	Pilots	Our Force Personnel	Other Civilians
1997-98	11	2	—	1	—	3
1998-99	16	2	1	6	1	3
1999-2000 (upto to 15 Feb 2000)	16	2	3	9	—	2

The estimated cost of damange in these MIG accidents, as per provisional loss statement, excluding the cost of damage of two accidents where the Courts of Inquiry are not yet completed, is about Rs. 372.36 crores.

(d) A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri to analyse the causes of accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimise accident rate.

Implementation of these recommendations would involve changes in organisational structure, procedures, training, design, technology etc. Necessary instructions have been issued to the Agencies/Departments concerned to take sutiable action on the recommendations of the Committee. About 55 out of 84 recommendations have been implemented so far.

Upgradation of Weapons

614. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to develop weapons for snowy conditions;

(b) whether research is going on to develop weapon locating, hand held and battlefield surveillance radar equipped to function in high altitudes and snowy environment to thwart Kargil like intrusions; and

(c) the time by which suitable solutions to mitigate the hardships of army would be possible?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Most of the weapons are developed with capability for use in various climatic environments including snowy conditions.

(b) It is not technologically feasible to develop a radar having all the three features namely "hand held', "weapon locating' and "battlefield surveillance'. However, the technology for weapon locating radar (WLR) has already been established. A project for development of state-of-the-art Battlefield Surveillance Radar (BFSR) has also been undertaken. No research work has been undertaken for development of hand held radar.

(c) Indigenously developed WLR can be delivered to the users within three years from the date of placement of production order. BFSR will enter production phase after successful completion of user trials, which will commence by mid 2001. However, in the interim period it has been decided to import certain quantity of BFSR to meet the immediate requirements.

Pakistani Build up Across LoC

615. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the security agencies were determining the exact intent behind the Pakistani build up across the line of control;